dso the amendment to prevent such countles from incurring debt. NEXT FALL'S ELECTION.

According to the law under which the Commission is serving. Greater New-York is to be constituted on January 1, 1808. It will thereore, be necessary to hold an election for the officers of the enlarged city in the autumn of this year in the three counties of New-York, Kings and Richmond, and in that portion of Queens County that is to be embraced within the city of New-York. In its temporary aspect this situation necessitates the passage of the act relating to the election of city officers of the city of New-York as constituted by the Greater New-York charter at the general election to be held in November in the year 1897 and for the canvass and return of the votes thereof and the determination of persons elected thereat. Inich as this election for city officers will be arried on in four different counties, it appears 1897 and also for subsequent elections to be ted to Chapter 969 of the laws of 1896, known as the Election law, deal adequately with that

By the provisions of the Greater New-York charter the towns in that part of Queens County nsolidated into the city and Long Island City wards of the City of New-York. The act to provide for the election of Supervisors therein and providing that such Supervisors shall be members of the Board of Supervisors of the

County of Queens is thus made necessary.

It will be manifest to the Legislature that all of the foregoing acts in substance and effect must be adopted in connection with the charter for Greater New-York, if consolidation is to be effected on January 1, 1898, without unspeakable

ROOMS FOR THE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY. An act in relation to the City Court of the City of New-York and for the accommodation thereof. and authorizing the fitting up and equipping of certain parts of the City Hall of the city of New-York, though less fundamental in importance, is ne less desirable from the point of view of public convenience if the charter submitted by the rides for a Municipal Assembly consisting of two houses and also for a Board of Public Imrovements, which is to have very important

unctions in relation to all the public work of municipality. The act submitted by the commission is intended to provide quarters for the City Court of New-York outside of the City Hall, and to authorize the present government of the city to provide suitable quarters in the City Hall for both houses of the Municipal Assembly and for the Board of Improvements. The Commission, therefore, urges the passage of this bill also in connection with the charter for Greater New-York in the interest of public convenience.

impossible to provide for minority or proportionrepresentation in the charter of Greater New-York without making a vital part of the far, both in the history of Great Britain and of this country, the complete exclusion of politics municipal elections has been found im-Many hope that in the future it may not be so. But if such expectations be realized, basis of division on local issues will still exist, representing differences of opinion, and it is important, whatever such differences may be, that the minority shall be represented.

The Commission would have provided for the of some members of the Municipal Ascould have done so with the assurance that in every year the minority, whatever that might just representation. But in Greater New-York, where the political division of the citizens is so one-sided, elections wholly at large for the Mumost years, the absolute extinction of the minority. Partial elections at large in ordinary years could only tend to decrease the minority's just and proportionate weight. A method of election that should make it impossible ever to change the membership of the Assembly at one time would be apt to give the control of the Municipal Assembly of the city to the majority, happen what would. In the mean while it has seemed to the Commission of the utmost importance to the public welfare that the miportance to the public welfare that the mi-nority, however composed, should be repre-sented in the Municipal Assembly at all times, even if it cannot hope often to secure control. The Commission has therefore arranged in both houses of the Municipal Assembly for a system of representation by districts that will secure always a certain representation for the minority.

secure always a certain representation for the minority.

The distribution and political habits of the people of the city are likely, in the judgment of the majority of the Commission, often to make this representation less than it ought of right to be, and the Commission therefore urges as strongly as possible, that the amendment to the State Constitution to permit minority or proportionate representation in municipal elections be placed promptly in the way of adoption. It does this also the more readily because it believes, quite apart from the special conditions prevailing in Greater New-York, that minority or proportionate representation is in the interest of good city government. Such representation tends to emphasize the fact that in the administration of a city the common interests of the citizenship of the place are more fundamental than party divisions; while, in the mean while, it tends to preserve the interest of the minority in the effort to secure good city government by encouraging them to feel that their efforts are not useless. their efforts are not useless.

HOW THE CHARTER WAS MADE.

In approaching the discussion of the charter herewith it is proper for the Commission to remind the Legislature that the task imposed upon them, at once delicate and onerous as any task could be, has also been very definite and precise in its nature. The Commission has not been charged with the duty of preparing a city charter at large; but, on the con-trary, with the duty of preparing a charter that unite into one city three existing cities, each and each with different charters, and that should also bring into the enlarged city a considerable area, besides, of territory still remaining under town and village government. The different communities thus to be consolidated into one are located upon three different islands and upon the mainland, and thus they are divided geographically into natural sub-divisions almost as distinct as the historic antece-dents that have marked their life. Nevertheless, they are, in substance and in fact, a single community, and they are all alike the outgrowth of the commercial and industrial life of the historic city of

munity, and they are all alike the outgrowth of the commercial and industrial life of the historic city of New-York.

But as to most subjects it appeared to the Commissioners to be wise, in defining the powers and duties of the enlarged municipality, to avail as far as possible and wherever it was applicable of the legislation already upon the statute book in relation to one or the other of the cities to be consolidated into Greater New-York. This decision has made the charter more bulky than it otherwise would have been; but the Legislature and the community may rest assured that for the most part the powers and duties devolved upon the various departments of Greater New-York are those which have heretofore been devolved upon such departments in one or the other of the cities consolidated by the charter. The

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Commission has ventured upon very little original legislation touching the powers of any department, unless with the general approval of those most competent to speak in relation thereto. In case of doubt as to any point, the Commission generally has assumed that the existing law was the result of past experience and ought to be maintained. Where the local laws have differed in matters financial and relating to property, the law of New-York has generally been given the preference; in matters indifferent; the best law, in the opinion of the Commission, obtaining in any of the three cities has been maintained; and where immediate uniformity has not been practicable without great local irritation, if absence of uniformity could be tolerated without disloyaity to consolidation, as in the case of the Department of Education, the Commission has done the best it could and has not hesitated to leave to time the adjustment of points of detail as to which there has been dispute. No other course seemed to be practicable under a mandate to unite living organisms like cities into a new and common life.

THE LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

When the Commission came to consider the legis and conflicting views and plans were urged for adoption. The general judgment was that a mution, size and powers of such an assembly conflicting views were also presented and urged. Some advised the constitution of the Municipal Assembly substantially upon the model of the English stem, where an elective municipal council, usual e elected from wards or subdivisions, is invested powers which Parliament grants or the law gives to the municipal corporation. It elects the Mayor

to the municipal corporation. It elects the Mayor from its own members, and appoints all its officers. Through standing committees it controls without exception all the administrative departments. Others strenuously urged that American polity and experience are against the adoption of the English plan en bloc, and that the powers of the Municipal Assembly ought to be limited in number and extent, and the exercise of the powers conferred be subjected to appropriate and effective charter limitations, analogous in principle and purpose to the restrictions which the American Constitution imposes upon the State Legislatures. The general plan which commended itself to the Commission is embodied in the charter which it now submits to the Legislature.

The Commission found that the municipal history of New-York afforded on almost every subject useful and instructive lessons, of which it has studiously availed itself. For example, the body known as the Board of Estimate and Apportionment had worked well and given general satisfaction. The Commission has retained it and enlarged rather than lessened its powers. So the principle of investing the Mayor with large powers and consequent direct responsibility to the people had also worked well, and his authority has been increased rather than diminished. His term of office is four years, and he is made ineligible for re-election without an intervening term.

The Commission has, however, converted the present Boat-gof Aldermen into a Municipal Assembly, consil. Ing of two houses, an Upper House of twenty-nine members, elected from large council districts containing an average population of more than 350,000, and a Lower House, consisting of sixty members, ne elected from each Assembly District, also a large area containing an average population of the charter New-York will in size and population of the charter New-York will in size and population become the second city in the world, is not well founded. Experience shows that it is more difficult to participate in its discussio

all the usual subjects of municipal jurisdiction. sembly at large and for a gradual retirement. The extent and variety of its powers, as well as of the members of one or both houses, if it its size, mark the Commission's sense of its dig-

With a view to self-development, the Commistablish ferries; to build bridges over and tunnels under all waters within its domain; to build docks and improve the harbor of the entire city; to construct parks, schoolhouses and public buildings; to open streets and extend them; to provide water, and also the means of securing easy, cheap and rapid communication by ferry and railways be-tween all parts of the great metropolis. The city, as the Commission has constituted it, has within itself all the elements and powers of normal growth and development, making it unnecessary to have habitual recourse, as hitherto, to the Legislature of the State for additional powers, a serious evil, and in the past a source of much abuse. These powers—great, varied and even complex, as they nocessarily are—will, when scrutinized, be seen to be no greater than the city requires, and to be always legislative in their character. They are such as the municipalities of England and of Europe, as well as of this country, constantly exercise.

This does not mean that under the proposed charter the city can change the structure of its own government. Whatever powers it will have it will receive as a grant from the State to enjoy in the form that they are given, and the State alone can modify the grant. Neither does it mean that the city can do what it will in every possible direction. It is vied up in many ways by old laws that are continued, because they have been justified by experience. But it does mean that the city is believed to be equipped with power to decide for itself what it will do within the well-recognized range of ordinary municipal activity.

CHECKS ON THE ASSEMBLY. tself all the elements and powers of normal growt

CHECKS ON THE ASSEMBLY.

But, while the charter thus confers upon the Municipal Assembly powers adequate to the present wants and to the future development of the eity, it interposes, in accordance with established American polity, a variety of checks and safeguards against their abuse, similar in their nature and purpose to the constitutional limitations upon the Congress of the United States and the Legislatures of the several States. No people can enjoy a large degree of liberty and the necessary powers of Government, in which that liberty consists, without such powers being liable to abuse. It is without such powers being liable to abuse. It is the duty of the legislator not to withhold the necessary power, but sedulously to safeguard its exercise. To provide such safeguards has been the subject of anxious consideration on the part of the Commission.

subject of anxious consideration on the part of the Commission.

The legislative experience of New-York and other cities and of the several States—indeed, of all popular bodies—shows that a main source of abuse is hasty or ill-advised action, especially as respects the power to dispose of franchises and those powers which involve the raising and expenditure of money, the creation of debt and the consequent levy of taxes and the placing of other financial burdens upon the people. It is a marked feature of the charter now presented that it differentiates the powers relating to franchises, the creation of debt, the expenditures of money, the laying of taxes and assessments—these being the only powers liable to serious abuse—from the ordinary powers flable to serious abuse—from the ordinary powers of the municipality embracing the countless subjects requiring municipal regulation. The former class of powers the Commission has protected against abuse by special and appropriate safeguard—safeguards which are in some respects unique, and which will in its judgment prove effective.

FRANCHISES NOT TO BE GIVEN AWAY.

FRANCHISES NOT TO BE GIVEN AWAY.

Thus, as to franchises and their disposition, the charter proposes a radical change of the highest importance and value. The streets of the city beong of right to the whole people. Their use for interest ought never to be permanently parted with in favor of any private interest whatever. The charter, therefore, declares that they are inalienable, and no rights therein shall hereafter be granted by the Municipal Assembly, except upon the approval of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, and then only for limited periods and upon provision being made for periodical revalua-tions.

upon provision being made for periodical revaluations.

Hereafter, therefore, no disposition of franchises, even for such limited periods, can be made by the Municipal Assembly without the concurrent action of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment. This Board is a body conservative in its nature and familiar with the extent of the city debt, with its revenues, with its wants and with the amount that can be reasonably raised by taxation; and under the charter no considerable debt can be incurred by the Municipal Assembly without the sanction of this Board. When the Municipal Assembly and the Board of Estimate and Apportionment concur in sanctioning any work which involves the expenditure of large sums of money, the charter further interposes for the public protection the Mayor's power to veto. It is the judgment of the Commission that the power of creating debt. especially debt payable in the distant future, the power of disposing of franchises, and the laying of taxes and assessments should have this triple safeguard. Any expenditure that can pass these successive ordeals is probably deserving; and, if it cannot pass them, in view of the publicity with which the proposed expenditure will thus necessarily be attended, the presumption is strong that it ought to fall.

Similar protective principles are applied to the water-front and waters constituting the harbor of New-York. The charter recognizes the harbor as the parent of the city's present greatness and of her commercial supremacy now and in the future. The charter proposed gives to the city, subject to vested private rights, which have been carefully protected, the control of the entire water-front and of lands under water everywhere within the city so far as necessary to secure and develop the commerce, foreign and domestic, of the city, and provides that its rights in and to its wharves, docks and other adjuncts of commerce, and all property held or acquired for that purpose, shall be and remain inalienable and be disposed of only by way of lease for limited periods upon periodical revaluations.

SUPERVISORY POWERS.

The Municipal Assembly, through its representatives, is the organ of the people in the various boroughs and in every part of the city. It is made its duty to see that the laws and ordinances of the city are faithfully observed by all departments and officers. To this end, the Commission has given the Municipal Assembly by joint resolution the power to make inquest into, and within the carefully defined limitations of the charter exercise supervision over, all the departments and officers of the city, a most useful and necessary function, operating as a salutary check on secret abuses, maladministration and oppressive and illegal exercise of authority.

NEW PUBLIC WORKS.

In respect of the large and costly range of public works comprised in the general term "local or pub-lic improvements," the charter provides in one re-spect a different and more appropriate but equally effective check. It creates a Board of Public Improvements referred to below, which has jurisdicprovements referred to below, which has jurisdiction over the bridges, streets, avenues, the water and sewer systems, and the like, of the city. It is clear that such works ought to be primarily determined by expert authority, so that they may be developed upon a fixed plan and designed and constructed in accordance with the highest attainable scientific skill. The charter, therefore, provides in general that the initiative in such improvements shall be taken by the Board of Public Improvements, requiring, however, that works of great magnitude and cost shall have also the approval of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and of a three-fourths vote of the people's representatives in the Municipal Assembly, with a veto power in the Mayor and with power in five-sixths of all of the Municipal Assembly to override the Mayor's veto.

These provisions, requiring respectively the sanstion of the Board of Estimate and Apportioment and the Board of Public Improvements, and the sanction of the Municipal Assembly, and subjecting the ordinances of the Municipal Assembly relating to them to the veto power of the Mayor, unless overridden by a five-sixths vote, will, in the judgment of the Commission, while giving the city the necessary power of development, render it substantially safe from serious abuse.

BOARD OF PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

CREATION OF DEBTS. Such protective provisions in respect of the debtreating power and borrowing powers of the city are neither anomalous nor unnecessary. The cost of public improvements in the municipalities of this to be borne out of current taxation, is generally met by the issue of bonds or other evidences of indebtedness payable in twenty or thirty years or other long periods of time. The temptation to create present debt and to throw the burdens of it on the future is very great, and it is universally recognized that such power must be conferred under necessary limitations, the common limitations in this country being a constitutional restric-tion on the total aggregate indebtedness that may tion on the total aggregate indebtedness that may be created (which is generally much smaller than the 10 per cent limitation in the Constitution of New-York), and often the sanction also of a popular vote. Even these have not always proved effectual against the creation of improvident or extravagant indebtedness. In England municipalities must submit to the Home Office of other central authority in London for examination and sanction every project which requires the like borrowing of money. This check on ill-advised improvements works well in that country, although it is a check which is extrinsic to the municipality and one that is imposed upon the power of the electors and municipality itself.

works well in that country, although it is a check which is extrinsic to the municipality and one that is imposed upon the power of the electors and municipality itself.

On a similar principle and for the same purpose, we have devised and imposed checks upon the debt-creating power of the greater city by requiring the sanction, respectively, of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and of the Board of Public Improvements, and by subjecting ordinances creating a debt to the Mayor's veto. The constitutional limitation in this State is too large to be in itself an adequate restriction, and the local conditions in the greater city are not such as to make it appropriate, in many instances, at least, to submit to the people of the whole city the question whether a given improvement—for example, an additional bridge over the East River or other like improvement—should be constructed or made. It seems to the Commission that the checks and safeguards contained in the charter against the creation of improvident or excessive indebtedness are specially appropriate to the circumstances and conditions of the greater city, giving it freedom of action to initiate to all needful permanent and expensive improvements, provided they have the approval of the boards above mentioned and the sanction of the Mayor.

ASSUMING LOCAL DEBTS.

The Commission has provided as a necessary result of consolidation for the assumption by the enlarged city of all the valid debts of every locality. This appeared to it to be mandatory by the terms of the law under which it is acting. As the city in of the law under which it is acting. As the city in-herits all of the powers, franchises, rights and property of the municipal and public corporations to be consolidated, it must necessarily assume their just obligations and habilities. It would be im-possible to secure a uniform rate of taxation throughout the territory of Greater New-York with-

other part. Careful provision is made in the charter to secure



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equality of valuations and of taxation throughout the entire city, and in its every part.

THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. In organizing the Police Department, the Commission encountered a subject upon which it was found that unanimity was impossible. Two different systems of police organization were in existence in the cities to be consolidated. In New-York there

the cities to be consolidated. In New-York there was a Police Board of four members, and this Board was charged with the duties of a Board of Elections. At the head of the Police Department in Brooklyn was a single Commissioner, the Board of Elections being a distinct and independent organization, consisting of feur members.

The police chapter as finally adopted contains these provisions: I. All applicants for admission to the force must pass a Civil Service examination, and new members must be selected from those candidates who are graded highest by the Civil Service Commission after such examination. 2. Promotions from the lower to the higher grades must be made on grounds of seniority, of merit and of excelence, as shown by competitive examinations. 3. "No promotion, except in case of a vacancy in the office of Chief of Police, shall be made unless the same is recommended by the Chief of Police in writing, stating his reasons for such recommendation." 4. To prevent a deadlock, "in case of the rejection of any recommendation for promotion, the Chief of Police shall submit another name within three days, and shall continue so to do until such vacancy is filled." 5. The action of the Board on these recommendations is by a majority vote. 6. The Chief of Police may be retired and thus removed from office by the unanimous vote of four Commissioners, or by a majority vote, approved by the Mayor.

It will thus be seen that the Police Department.

Mayor.

will thus be seen that the Police Department will thus be seen that the Police Department

the Mayor.

It will thus be seen that the Police Department under the new charter is organized upon principles quite different from anything that has heretofore prevailed in New-York or Brooklyn.

The charter provides for the consolidation into a single force of all the police forces of the territory to be consolidated, and also the park police and of the police of the New-York and Brooklyn Bridge. The advantages to be gained by such a consolidation of police forces are apparent. Some objection has been made that the duties of the park police are so different from those of the regular police as to make consolidation of the force in their case unwise. The Commission, in this respect, has acted upon the plan that has worked well in connection with the sanitary squad, a body of police assigned to duty under the orders of the Health Department. That is to say, while the parks will be policed by members of the police force assigned to duty therein, such members, while so assigned will be subject to the orders of the Park Commissioners, as fully as the park police now. By this arrangement the Commission thinks that it has secured in police matters, even as regards the parks, the advantages of both systems.

EQUALIZING SALARIES.

public work; (2) the responsibility of each department ment represented in it for the work to ach department to the presented in it for the work to ach department to the work to the department of the state of the

of extravagant demands of suburban localities, and without depriving these localities, on the other hand, of the advantages reasonably to be expected from consolidation. The Commission is of opinion that the president of each borough, sitting as he does in the Board of Public Improvements, will be an important factor in the successful working out

important factor in the succession was the problem. The Beards of Local Improvements consist of the sident of the borough and of the members of the hichal Assembly residing within any given atorial district, the Senatorial district having n chosen as the unit for the consideration of imvements to be paid for by assessment for benevements to be paid for by assessment for benevements to be paid for the neighborhood, as h, a voice by which it can speak in relation to tiers of tocal concern, and especially as to what technically known as local improvements; that to say, it provements to be paid for by assessing for benefits.

matters of local concern, and especially as to say it provements to be paid for by assessments for benefits.

The procedure in regard to improvements to be paid for by assessment for benefits has been settled, after public hearings and full discussion and deliberate consideration. The locality has the opportunity to express its wishes in the matter through its local board, presided over by the President of the borough. The judgment of the Board of Public Improvements, on which the city at large as well as each locality is represented, is relied upon to protect the public interest and to prevent the credit of the city from being placed at the service of speculators and contractors. In the scheme adopted local improvements are to be alded by the credit and means of the city, and the city cannot wholly surrender the control thereof. The procedure adopted is simple, and involves no delay other than that which is essential for the thorough investigation by the Board of Public Improvements of each proposition.

MAPPING THE CITY.

MAPPING THE CITY

Care has been taken to protect all maps that have finally been adopted for any part of the city from ill-considered change. The duty of mapping parts of the city that are not yet mapped has been devolved upon the president of the Board of Public Improvements in connection with the Commissioner because it was deemed undesirable to build up special machinery in each borough for this purpose. Again it was held to be essential that the officer originally making the maps should be in a position to command the complete co-operation of the Department of Sewers, inasmuch as the drainage system adopted is, to a considerable extent, the determining factor as to the lines and grades of streets and highways. On the other hand, the President of the borough, as a member of the Board of Public Improvements, will be associated with this work only less closely than if he had it directly in his own charge. It is possible that the president of the Board of Public Improvements may improperly disregard the views of the locality, but so it is possible that a headstrong President of a borough might do the same thing. In the mean while, such action is not to be anticipated in either case. It is rather to be assumed that in a board composed as the Board of Public Improvements will be composed every new section of the city will be mapped sagactously and in the public interest. The Board of Public Improvements, and also the Municipal Assembly, with the approval of the Mayor, are given power to call for the completion of any map by a date to be fixed, so as to put an end to unreasonable deiay.

USE OF THE GENERAL CREDIT. originally making the maps should be in a position USE OF THE GENERAL CREDIT. By these provisions the Commission thinks it has

met successfully and equitably the requirements of the problem to be dealt with. It has been impossible for the Commission to accept the propo-sition, that was so strongly urged from one locality, that every borough should elect its own Com-missioner of Public Works, who should have control over and be responsible for public work of all kinds within the limits of the borough. Whatever may be the advantages of this proposition, it is not consolidation; it is rather disintegration. is not consolidation; it is rather disintegration. Such a plan would make the greater city furnish the money to each locality for whatever work it wanted to do, and would leave the locality freshanded to do it in its own way. It would deprive all parts of the city of anything like unity of development, and would, in effect, destroy whatever advantage is to be expected from consolidation in the direction of skilled oversight and control. The Commission has been obliged to assume it as a fundamental proposition, from which it has departed in no instance, that the control of all public work of every kind should proceed from the centre, and that it should be executed by the agents of the city as distinguished from the agents of the locality.

A UNANIMOUS RECOMMENDATION. In dealing with interests so comprehensive and so important as those that are affected by the proposition to consolidate into a single city the three cities and the other territory that are to

so important as those that are affected by the proposition to consolidate into a single city the three cities and the other territory that are to become a part of Greater New-York, it is not auroprising that opinion in the Commission, as well as outside of it, thould have been sharply divided upon some points. Notwithstanding these divisions on the Commission is as one is recommended to the Commission is as one is recommended to the Commission is as one is recommended to the Greater as submitted.

The Commission, as it has studied the problem committed to it for solution, has become more and more sensible of the gravity of it. It appears to the Commission inevitable that there should be more or less inconvenience and possibly sometion of a new government of a so many other the consolidated territory. Village governments, the consolidated territory. Village governments, town governments and the comments are affike called upon give place to a city government to come into existence competent to make a budget for seniarged city, nor to lay a tax for its beheful as such in advance of its constitution. The Commission has provided that the different public tax for ISOs precisely as though the confusion was not to take place; and the charter equips the enlarged city with authority inequality of contribution that may be Igoden to the abnormal condition prevailing in large and the charter of the confusion of the proposed charter and the special acts supplemental thereto assume that it has been able to anticipate the confusions and mistakes; but it does the confusion may be inevitable in a confusion of the proposed charter and the special acts supplemental thereto assume that it has been able to anticipate the consolidated city that may safely be put into oversions of the proposed charter and the special acts supplemental theoreto assume that it will juickly adjust the consolidated city that may safely be put into oversions of the proposed charter and the special acts supplemental there to a consolidated city that may be

The report and the bills accompanying it were referred to the Cities Committee in both the Senate and the Assembly.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS.

GRATIFYING ADVANCEMENT SHOWN BY THE REPORT OF THE REGENTS'

Albany, Feb. 22.—The report of the examination department of the State Board of Regents for 1896 shows that 913,500 question papers were printed for use in the examinations, and that 5,000 bulletins, containing 363 different papers, or 1,815,000 question papers, were also required, making a total of 2.728,500. Statistics in the report of 1896 show a greater volume of work than for any other year in the history of the examination department. Nearly 400,000 answer papers were writen and near ly 300,000 were received at the department and rated

by university examiners. by university examiners.

An examination of the statistics shows an astonishing growth in the number of those taking classical studies. In first-year Latin alone there was an increase in 1856 of 1.301. The increase in Latin and Greek subjects shows conclusively that the present system of elective with balance courses, lends inevitably to an increase in the popularity of

There has been a growth in six years of 66 per cent in the number of students completing the re-quirements for admission to high-schools, of 132 courses, and of 148 per cent in the number completing high-school courses equivalent to gradua

tion in 1889. The report says: "There has been a growth in secondary education which is without a parallel. Since 1893 there has been a growth of 406, or of nearly 28 per cent, in the number of law students. In 1895 there were 8,950 law students in the United States. New-York State, therefore, according to States. New-York State, therefore, according to these figures, has about 21 per cent of all the law students in the United States. Since 1831 there has been an increase of 480, or nearly 15 per cent, in the number of medical students in New-York State. In 1895 there were 2.887 medical students in the United States. New-York, therefore, according to these figures, has nearly 17 per cent of such students. Since 1893 there has been an increase of 1.87, or of more than 69 per cent, in the number of dental students. In 1895 there were 5.347 dental students in the United States. New-York State has about 10 per cent of this number of students. "New-York's leadership in all that pertains to professional education cannot be questioned. She is serving more and more as a model in all parts of the United States where efforts are made to advance the standards of admission to professional fife. "It is singular that both in preliminary education there were a professional study, dentistry and

vance the standards of admission to professional life.

"It is singular that both in preliminary education and in term of professional study, dentistry and veterinary medicine stand higher than law. About one-third of all the law schools in the United States have declared for a three years course for the LLR degree, and in this third are included two-thirds of the degree-conferring law schools in New-York State. It is strange that until quite recently comparatively little attention has been paid to the necessity for the better education of the lawyer. Schools of medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine require a course of three and four years, and also a degree for admission to the licensing examination. The LLR degree is not necessary for admission to the bar, but it should stand for scholarship. The recent action of leading law schools in the United States shows wonderful growth in this direction."

A FIXED RATE FOR STATE LABOR.

SUPERINTENDENT ALDRIDGE WANTS UNSKILLED WORKERS TO CET 15 CENTS AN HOUR,

Albany, Feb. 22.-Superintendent Aldridge of the the Legislature a communication bearing on the rate of wages to be paid for unskilled labor on the public works of the State, and urging that a mini-mum price of not less than 15 cents an hour be munication he sets forth the reasons why be be-lieves the State should interfere in a matter of this kind. He wishes the law to apply to all work whether done by the State itself or under contract, The work on the canals under the \$2,000,000 appro-priation gives immediate rise to the question. Concerning this canal work Mr. Aldridge says;

cerning this canai work Mr. Aldridge says:

The complaint, briefly stated, is that unskilled laborers do not receive more than 12½ cents per hour for an eight-hour day. This makes the maximum of wages which an able-bodied citizen may carn \$5 per week. The great portion of the work is so far removed from the homes of workingmen that of necessity they must live in boarding-houses. These boarding-houses are maintained for the special accommodation of the canal laborers, and, being removed from the centres of population in most cases, find it necessary to charge a higher rate for board than laborers earning but \$5 per week are accustomed to pay. I am given to understand that the usual rate charged at these boarding-houses is \$4 per week. A laborer, therefore, putting in full time, after paying his board, has but \$2 left for his other necessities and the support of his family. When it is considered that the laborer is obliged to lose much time on account of storms and inclement weather, it is not difficult for a thinking man to understand that unskilled labor has a just complaint.

One of the arguments used, which induced the very large vote in favor of the \$9,900.00 canal im-

Is Life Worth Living!

thus interrogating himself, it is the unhappy mortal who suffers from malaria in some one of its diabolical forms. living by any man or woman who enjoys good health, and a not harassed by a reproachful conscience. The malarial scourge, heavily laid on, is a terrible one for the poor sufferer to endure. A series of freezings, scorchings and eweats—the last leaving one as limp and as strengthless as a dish rag, are hard indeed, recurring as they do with fiendish regularity. Hostetter's Stomach Bitters is the world-wide known preventive and curative of this class of residues either to the form of arms and force. of the city as distinguished from the agents of the locality.

The scheme in the charter whereby the city alds with its credit and money the making of local improvements by issuing its bonds and raising, in the first instance, the amount needful for such works, and relying for reimbursement upon afterward collecting assessments for benefits, is a provision of extreme liberality on the Eart of the city toward the localities. Such a power was regarded by some of the members of the Commission as liable to lead to excessive indebtedness on the part of the city, and they urged that no such improvements be made unless one-third, or some other proportion of the cost, should be raised in advance by the property interested. The Commission, and renew failing strength.



Shanghai. Paris. Lyons. Fabric from Shanghai. It is strong, will make good seams.

Designs from Paris-eight of them. Numerous combinations in the several patterns display the best popular colors.

Printed in Lyons. All this pertains to 18,000 yards of Silks that are just in and first shown to-day. The price is FORTY CENTS. Equal goodness will be hard to find at equal money. Indi-cations suggest scarcity of similar goods.

It is proper to remind you of The rich Spring Taffeta at 75c. The beautiful Silk Gauzes with satin

stripes, at 50c. DINING-ROOM FURNITURE

The Dining-room Furniture now shown in our Furniture store makes a large and interesting exhibition.

Response came quickly-continues strongly-to our February offering of Bedroom Suits. The departing procession keeps our Furniture vans busy.

With good reasons we expect a corresponding experience in Dining-room Suits and pieces. DINING TABLES

We show 50 patterns of Dining-room Tables. Prices 84 20 to \$120. Of oak, antique finish, 5 ft. long, \$4.20.
Of oak, carved base, polished top, 6 ft. long, \$7.
Of oak, tancy fluted legs, top 42 in, wide, 8 ft. long,

Of quartered oak, 8 tt. long, fancy legs, claw feet, \$15. SIDE TABLES

35 patterns in oak and mahogany. Prices \$12.50 to \$80.

Of quartered oak, 18x36 in., one large drawer for table linen, cabinet below, French legs, \$12.50.

Of quartered oak, with cabinet and four small drawers, top 42x18 in., \$16.50.

Of quartered oak, swell front, carved claw feet, top 42x20 in., \$21.

SIDEBOARDS 125 patterns of oak and mahogany, \$12.50 to \$225."
Of oak, polished finish, 8 ft. 6 in. long, bevel plate

of oak, poisshed finish, 3 ft o in. long, better place mirror 14x24 in., \$12.50.

Of quartered oak, top and base neatly carved; 4 ft. long; 3 French bevel plate mirrors in top, \$20.

Of quartered oak, 4 ft. long, swell front base, handsomely carved, highly polished, 2 drawers, bevel plate irror in top, \$20.

CHINA CLOSETS

CHINA CLOSETS

75 patterns in oak and mahogany. Prices \$17 to \$187.50.

\$187.50.
Of oak, highly potished, 3 ft. 4 in. wide, round endstance carved top, \$17.
Of quartered oak, 4 ft. wide, 3 shelves, round ends, carved top, \$22.50.
Of quartered oak, round ends, tope column orns-

mentations on front, \$27. BUTLERS' TRAYS Of quartered oak, highly polished, \$6.75. DINING-ROOM CHAIRS

150 patterns in oak and mahogany. Prices \$1.10 to \$32. Of quartered oak, cane seat and spindle back, 82,

Of quartered oak, polished, embossed leather seat, Of walnut, box seat, fancy back, \$3.25.

Great house or small, elegant apartment or simple, have equal care in our Dining-Room Furniture-comprehensive, universal.

OHN WANAMAKERS

provement act, was that this work, by reason of its giving employment to laborers all along the line of the canal would induce prosperity and afford relief where it was most needed. Up to the present time, I do not hesitate to say, the work in this regard has been a disappointment.

When the communication was read in the Assembly a resolution was offered by Mr. Degan and adopted, referring it to the Committee on Labor and Industry, with instructions to report to the Honse a bill embodying the recommendations contained therein. In the Senate the communication was referred to the Finance Committee.

ASSEMBLY BILLS.

MEASURES PASSED, ADVANCED AND INTRODUCED LAST NIGHT.

Albany, Feb. 22.-The Assembly to-night passed the following bills: Mr. Husted's, providing for the changing of the term of the Water Commissioners of the village of Peekskill; Mr. Smith's, providing that the Common Council of Yonkers shall have power to authorize the macadamizing of streets in the city and that assessments therefor shall be valid; Mr. Abell's, prohibiting railroads using bridges wholly or partly built by the city of Brooklyn without the consent of municipal authorities; Mr. Mazet's, conferring jurisdiction over certain streets in New-York City upon the Department of Public Parks; Mr. Mathewson's, changing the grades of the Kingsbridge and Fordham roads in New-York City.

The following bills were advanced to third reading: Mr. Sanger's, repealing the Code of Criminal Proceedurs so as to compel counsel defending murderers ing that all persons driving on a bleycle side-path outside of city limits shall be liable to a fine of \$50 or

ing that all persons driving on a doctored outside of city limits shall be liable to a fine of \$30 or imprisonment for thirty days; Mr. Finn's, providing for the construction of an additional public bath hear Canal-st. In New-York City, Mr. Austin's, providing for the establishment of public scales in cities of the first and second classes on which to weigh coal for purchasers; Mr. Sanger's, incarparating the Sailors' Rest, of New-York.

The following bills were introduced:

By Mr. Soper—Authorizing the Mayor of Brooklyn to appoint a Board of Trustees for the control of the cemetery at Church Laite, near East Eighty-ninthst. in the Thirty-second Ward.

By B. D. Brown—Amending the Liquor Tax law so as to not submit to electors the question as to whether or not liquor shall be sold on a pharmacist's or physician's prescription.

By G. W. Wilson—Providing that upon the consolidation of New-York and Brooklyn all railroad tracks and other railroad property shall be removed from Atlantic-ave. Bre klyn, between Court-st. on the west and Vesta-st. on the east, and authorizing the Board of Public Improvement to remove the same within ninety days.

A FRAUD ON NEW-YORK DAIRYMEN.

Albany, Feb. 22.—Commissioner Wieting, of the Albany. Feb. 22—Commissioner Wieting. of State Agricultural Department, last week determined that he would attempt to prohibit the use by dairymen of other States of the New-York brand mark for dairy products, principally cheese the sent his deputy, George Flanders, to Washington, to see if the Commissioner of Patents would not issue a patent on the New-York brand, while would exclude other States from using it. It was ascertained, howeven, that it could not be done, a the United States Supreme Court had held thad twould be contrary to the Interstate Commerce by to allow a State to enter into trade by brandingle products. The decision was made in the cas of the South Carolina Dispensary law, where it has sought to brand whiskey under the me was sought to brand whiskey under the persons in other States from Sing the braid state may brand its product, Signature of the by persons in other States from Sing the braids said that Michigan cheese dealers are us the liverypool and other Eurobean markets detriment of New-York shippers, who have veloped a splendid trade abroad. Commissioner the New-York brand. State Agricultural Department, last week de-